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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8133  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 1706  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE 1185  
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 0170  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0302  
RUEHVN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 2120  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1503  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BISHKEK 001310

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN

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TAGS: PGOV PREL KG  
SUBJECT: TEKEBAYEV RETURNS TO KYRGYZSTAN; SECURITY SERVICE  
SCANDAL GROWING

REF: A. BISHKEK 1302  
      1B. WARSAW 1939 (NOTAL)

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Sensitive but unclassified. Not for Internet distribution.

11. (SBU) SUMMARY: Opposition MP Omurbek Tekebayev returned to Kyrgyzstan early September 12, after Polish authorities dropped all charges against him for carrying narcotics, as he appeared to have been framed (Ref B). At a morning rally in front of Parliament, Tekebayev accused the Kyrgyz Government of setting him up, and his supporters carried signs saying "Down with Bakiyev." During a raucous session of Parliament, National Security Service (SNB) Chairman Busurmankul Tabaldiyev announced that he had offered his resignation, and several opposition deputies rose to demand that President Bakiyev appear before Parliament. In an apparent attempt to stem the criticism, President Bakiyev fired his brother, Janysh Bakiyev, from his post as First Deputy Chairman of the SNB for his alleged role in the scandal, though he may resurface in another position. Parliament's special committee has begun its investigation of the incident, and public debate over the scandal will certainly continue. END SUMMARY.

12. (U) Former Speaker and current MP Omurbek Tekebayev returned to Kyrgyzstan early September 12 following his release September 8 by Polish authorities. Tekebayev had been detained at the Warsaw airport September 5 when border guards found a matryoshka doll filled with heroin in his luggage (Ref A), but authorities later determined Tekebayev had been the victim of a set-up. Surveillance video from the Bishkek airport appeared to show Tekebayev's luggage receiving special handling by security personnel prior to being loaded on the plane; the video was shown on television and over the Internet in Kyrgyzstan.

13. (U) Tekebayev was greeted in Bishkek by a morning rally of

several hundred supporters in front of Parliament. Tekebayev thanked the crowd for its support and said that he had been the victim of a government plot. Opposition MP Azimbek Beknazarov blamed President Bakiyev for the scandal, saying that the "wrong people" had been brought to power following the March 24, 2005 revolution, and several in the crowd carried signs saying "Down with Bakiyev."

**¶4. (U)** Following the rally, Parliament held a raucous session in which several deputies demanded that President Bakiyev and other members of the government appear to answer questions. MP Bolotbek Sherniyazov claimed that Parliament's special committee investigating the case had obtained phone records linking the airport personnel who handled Tekebayev's luggage with SNB Deputy Chairman Janysh Bakiyev, the brother of the President. SNB Chairman Busurmankul Tabaldiyev faced the deputies, telling them that he and Deputy Speaker Tairbek Sarpashev had met with President Bakiyev the previous night to discuss the incident and the accusations against Bakiyev's brother. According to Tabaldiyev, President Bakiyev said that if his brother was involved, he should bear responsibility under the law. Bakiyev subsequently signed a decree removing his brother from his post with the SNB "for transfer to another position." Tabaldiyev, while claiming he had no personal knowledge of the plot against Tekebayev, announced that he had offered to resign.

**¶5. (U)** The MPs also criticized Prime Minister Felix Kulov, who had actually recommended Janysh Bakiyev for the Deputy's position in the SNB. Kulov defended himself, saying that he had had a positive impression of Janysh at that time. The President's personal representative in Parliament, Alymbay Sultanov, told the members that the President had promised justice in this case and would move forward with a special commission to investigate the case consisting of

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representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Procurator General's office, the Presidency, and MPs. At least two MPs, however, said they would not serve on the government commission. State television plans to broadcast tape of the day's session the evening of September 12.

**¶6. (SBU) COMMENT:** The parliamentary session will continue, either in committee or full session, on September 13, and it is not yet known whether President Bakiyev will appear. Meanwhile, the Parliament's special commission will also move forward, possibly interviewing airport security officials. The public debate over the scandal is just beginning. END COMMENT.

YOVANOVITCH